

*Manpower and Immigration Council*

Having personally taken part in the work of these committees in the Lachute region, in the county of Argenteuil-Deux Montagnes, I know that these committees can be very efficient, and it is to be hoped that we will be able to continue to rely on the initiative of managers and local authorities to provide real and not pretended service.

If that is the case, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) will have to be congratulated for this new initiative, as will also and especially the citizens who voluntarily lend their services to such enterprises without receiving full recognition for their contribution, without which no success would be possible.

On the other hand, there are some pitfalls to watch and that is surely what we will be looking for when the bill following this resolution is introduced.

First and most important is that the setting up of these various committees does not afford the minister an opportunity to avoid ministerial responsibility in the establishment of this policy on the plea that the whole thing is in the hands of committee members who will have to do their best and be responsible for the success or failure of their operations.

The main problem of the committees I have mentioned has precisely been the absence of direction and of overall planning in the alternatives to be offered. It is up to the minister, basically and exclusively, and to his departmental officials to constantly supervise the development and direction of these committees, and that is surely what we, on this side, will look for in the setting up of the principle and of the act.

Secondly, we have already emphasized on the introduction of the bill respecting the occupational training of adults, on page 15393 of *Hansard*, that lack of sufficient research not only among the local population to determine their tastes, their ambitions, their experiences, their willingness to move but also among industries and in new areas to determine their capacity to absorb these new elements.

What better example than that of Elliott Lake in the riding of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), Algoma East, where there has been a drop of 60 per cent in the enrolment of retraining classes in an area affected by unemployment for a long time.

There again we strongly insist on sociological as well as demographic research to ensure

[Mr. Regimbal.]

a balanced, progressive and especially lasting development.

Thirdly, the present government has the reputation, not very enviable, of multiplying everywhere and in an alarming way operating costs and bureaucracy. This is another opportunity of swelling the expenses and the number of employees beyond measure. It is time as early as the resolution stage to provide for a close co-ordination with existing services. It would have seemed at least possible, on this particular point, to prevent the passing of a new legislation entailing a separate administration, a separate budget, an increase of jobs, staff and expenses.

The minister is not without knowing surely that he is blamed in several places for providing very comfortable, not to say luxurious, accommodations which look more like monuments than workshops for research and training.

There is also some displeasure among the civil servants because the tasks are not clearly defined and circumscribed. Both blames stress the dangers we have mentioned: excessive spending and increased bureaucracy.

[English]

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we will also be watching the degree of closely-knit consultation with provincial and municipal authorities which is essential in developing these boards and committees.

• (4:30 p.m.)

The need for this preoccupation was underlined very early in the fourth annual review of the Economic Council of Canada, and I suspect that this is not the last time that the report will be quoted. I quote the following from the last paragraph on page 2 of the report:

In Canada there is not only the problem of achieving greater cohesion and consistency in the making and implementation of policy within a particular government but also a larger challenge than exists in most other countries to achieve such cohesion and consistency among the three levels of government. Similarly, decision-making in the private sector of the economy is widely decentralized. Yet, because of the extensive and intricate interrelationships of a modern industrial society, the achievement of a cohesive and consistent appraisal of a wide range of problems and questions of policy facing both governments and private groups becomes increasingly important.

A few lines farther on it reads as follows:

Too frequently in the past, the economy has found itself in the midst of problems which could not be easily and quickly resolved once they emerged—education, shortages of skilled and professional manpower, business investment, public